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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Political Information: Activities of
P. P. Shevchenko, Soviet Shanghai Lawyer

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SUPPLEMENT

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

1. P. P. Shevchenko, prominent Soviet lawyer in Shanghai, graduated from Vladivostok's Vostochni Institut (Eastern Institute), a university established for persons with a knowledge of law and the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Mongolian languages. In 1922 he and his family migrated with other White Russian emigres to Kirin. He also spent several years in Harbin, where he made his living by teaching in various Russian schools. When Shevchenko returned to Kirin he became a teacher of Russian in the Chinese Kirin University. During his twelve years in Kirin he perfected his knowledge of the Chinese language and received the legal right to practice law.
2. In 1936 Shevchenko was compelled by the Japanese to leave Kirin. By this time he had been accused by some White Russians of conspiring with the Soviets; however, he was even then a member of the Far Eastern Ukrainian Separatist Movement.
3. In Shanghai Shevchenko became a member of the Chinese Lawyers' Association and soon built up a lucrative practice. He retained his membership in the Ukrainian Separatist Movement.
4. During the war Shevchenko applied for Soviet citizenship papers through Khalin, who was visiting Shanghai. (Khalin was then head of the Consular Section of the Tokyo Embassy.) Upon receiving these papers, after V-J Day, Shevchenko became one of the most active members of the Shanghai Soviet Citizens' Association and the Soviet Citizens' Club.
5. Shevchenko is a personal friend of Soviet Ambassador A. Petrov, at present reported to be returning to China from the USSR. It is difficult to determine the basis of this friendship. Shevchenko has told friends that he and Petrov graduated at the same time from the Vostochni Institut in Vladivostok and that Petrov later took post-graduate courses in Petrograd (now Leningrad) University, where he finally became a professor.
6. Shevchenko was made an "adviser" to the Shanghai Soviet Consulate, and has sometimes served there as an interpreter. Unconfirmed rumors have always followed him to the effect that his favorable financial situation is assured by a secret source. He has a relatively small circle of Russian-speaking friends and never appears to be interested in political problems. He has Chinese friends in both Kirin and Shanghai. It is possible that he is interested, not in Soviet aspirations in the Far East, but only in routine Chinese-Soviet matters.

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